



NEWS RELEASE

1303 SW First American Place, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66604-4040
Voice (785) 271-2701, FAX (785) 271-2708, WEB www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

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Contact- Harold Alford (785) 271-2701

USDA Rural Development Recognizes Lending Partner

ASTRA BANK HONORED

Chapman, KS - USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks today recognized Astra Bank as an outstanding lending partner that has provided increased homeownership opportunities to the Chapman community through the Agency's *Guaranteed Rural Housing Loan Program (GRH)*. Astra Bank was also recognized for their leadership demonstrating innovative partnerships for re-building Chapman, Kansas following the 2008 Tornado Disaster.

USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks commenting at today's event, said, "Astra Bank has been an active partner with USDA Rural Development and other resource entities helping to facilitate the Chapman community's sustainable long-term recovery. We are very pleased that USDA Rural Development has programs to support economic and community development. The Agency is committed to assisting rural Kansas communities with their housing and community facility needs," remarked State Director Banks.

Kyle Campbell, President & CFO of Astra Bank said, "Astra Bank understands the advantages of the GRH program and the benefits it can have for homebuyers and their communities in the Chapman area. Astra Bank looks forward to a successful partnership with USDA Rural Development as we continue our efforts to assist in the re-building of the Chapman community."

In addition to the award being presented to Astra Bank, USDA Rural Development State Director Banks also recognized the Chapman Area Long-Term Recovery Team (CALRT) in a separate ceremony for their partnership and involvement in re-building Chapman.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for rural Americans. USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has delivered nearly \$1.5 billion to Kansans covering all Agency programs, supporting well over \$7 billion in future economic development for the Sunflower State.

For additional information regarding Agency programs, individuals should contact the USDA Rural Development area office in Manhattan at 785-775-7582 (extension #4), the State Headquarters at 785-271-2700 or visit the Agency's Kansas website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

USDA Rural Development – Committed to the Future of Rural Communities

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